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THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

To T. Donovan Room No 63S

From: Robert J. Linn / Room 63W / Ext. 3581

Date 3 /30 /83

Subj: ASBESTOS

cc: J. Carlock, D. Censullo, F. DiPaolo, P. Goz

The attached New York Times article no longer puts us in a category by ourselves. I would assume that other buildings having asbestos are going to some time in the near future be forced to take the precautions which we are presently now implementing. As for the removal, the most logical way of doing that is when the tenant vacates the premises and the area isolated for a long period of time so that all aspects of the EPA removal procedures can be carried out promptly.

R.J.L.

Att.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
PX-664

Sheet-Metal Industry Urges Asbestos-Removal Law

By DAMON STETSON

The sheet-metal industry is urging legislative action to insure the removal of hazardous asbestos from all New York City structures built before 1972, the year sprayed-on asbestos was banned from construction.

At the same time, the industry and the sheet-metal workers union have begun a campaign to reduce the exposure of workers to asbestos during building renovation and to minimize the danger to people employed or living in structures in which asbestos particles and dust may be present as a result of such work.

William Rothberg, executive director-counsel of the Sheet Metal Industry Promotion Fund, said sheet-metal workers, in particular, were exposed to a "life-threatening cloud" as they rebuild or replace heating and air-conditioning ducts fastened to asbestos-covered structural parts in old buildings.

Says New Laws Are Needed

"Asbestos exposure not only threatens the well-being of the nearly 4,000 sheet-metal workers in the metropolitan New York-New Jersey area but all those working in the building trades and everyone living and working in buildings constructed before the 1972 ban," Mr. Rothberg said at a news conference earlier this month at the Warwick Hotel.

Arthur Moore, president and business manager of Local 28 of the Sheet Metal Workers Union, emphasized the need for immediate steps to provide personal protection for workers and to make work sites safer. But over the long run, he said, laws will be needed that will mandate the removal of asbestos from buildings where it was sprayed before 1972.

He said he also wanted to enlist the support of workers in other trades — carpenters, plumbers, electricians, plasterers, painters and others — because the problem affects all of them as well as people living and working in the buildings.

Workers to Be Monitored

Asked later about the city's asbestos ban, Marvin Hassman, director of materials for the city's Buildings Department, explained that in 1972 a city statute was passed that banned the use of sprayed-on asbestos in insulating and fireproofing structural parts of buildings such as columns and beams.

Mr. Rothberg announced a contribution of $50,000 from the Sheet Metal Industry Promotion Fund to be used in the development of a comprehensive asbestos control program by researchers of the Department of Social Medicine at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center.

Researchers in the occupational-health program at Montefiore, he said, will set up a safe-work practices committee to monitor the health of 2,000 of Local 28's 4,000 workers and make recommendations on how to minimize asbestos exposure during building renovation.

Dr. Ernest Drucker, from the Occupational Health Program, said two recent studies in Massachusetts and New York had detected very high rates of lung disease in senior sheet-metal workers. But just as the end of asbestos spraying in new construction did not put an end to workers' exposure to asbestos, he said, so the provision of periodic medical examinations will not prevent further damage to the health of workers in the construction trades.

"Asbestos insulation must be effectively contained or removed from work areas and, eventually, from all buildings in New York City," he said.